Ontario

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Public Health Division

Ontario Influenza Bulletin 2006-2007 Season

SURVEILLANCE WEEK 49 (December 3 - December 9), 2006

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from December 3 - December 9, 2006 (week 49). The analysis for this issue occurred on Wednesday December 13, 2006, therefore all data is current to that date unless otherwise specified.

Influenza activity in Ontario during week 49, 2006, was similar to that of the previous week. Eleven sporadically occurring cases of influenza A were reported through iPHIS from health units, while no new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported. The Central West health regions reported 'localized' influenza activity; Toronto, Central East, Eastern and Southwest regions reported 'sporadic' activity, while remaining regions reported 'no activity' levels.

For a definition of influenza-like illness (ILI) activity levels and links to websites providing current influenza information from other sources, please refer to the attached Appendix- I. If you would like to provide feedback on the Bulletin, please contact Michael Whelan (Michael.whelan@moh.gov.on.ca , 416-327-9174) or Anne-Luise Winter (anne-luise.winter@moh.gov.on.ca, 416-327-7301).

This year has been a very busy one for all of us. Let us all take time out of our busy schedules to reflect on past accomplishments and future goals.
We wish you and your families Seasons Greetings and a safe and healthy New Year.

Seasons Greetings

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases and institutional influenza outbreaks by health region, December 3 - December 9 (week 49), 2006.

Lab-confirmed Influenza cases*	HEALTH REGION							TOTAL
	North West	North East	Eastern	Central East	Toronto	South West	Central West	
Influenza A	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	11
Influenza B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A & B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total new cases	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***1***	***0***	***10***	***11***
Institutional influenza outbreaks‡	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports to PHD]

* Includes reports of sporadically occurring influenza through iPHIS, as well as cases in institutional outbreaks, with dates of onset in the surveillance period.

‡ Laboratory-confirmed outbreaks in institutions during the surveillance period.

Table 2: Laboratory Confirmed cases of influenza by health unit & health region, with an episode date† between December 3 – December 9 (week 49), 2006.

Region	Health Unit	Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza		
		Influenza A	Influenza B	TOTAL
North West	Northwestern	0	0	0
	Thunder Bay District	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH WEST	**0**	**0**	**0**
North East	Algoma	0	0	0
	North Bay Parry Sound District	0	0	0
	Porcupine	0	0	0
	Sudbury & District	0	0	0
	Timiskaming	0	0	0
	TOTAL. NORTH EAST	**0**	**0**	**0**
Eastern	Eastern Ontario	0	0	0
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties	0	0	0
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	0	0	0
	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark	0	0	0
	Ottawa	0	0	0
	Renfrew	0	0	0
	TOTAL EASTERN	**0**	**0**	**0**
Central East	Durham Region	0	0	0
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District	0	0	0
	Peterborough County-City	0	0	0
	Simcoe Muskoka District	0	0	0
	York Region	0	0	0
	Peel Region	0	0	0
	TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	**0**	**0**	**0**
Toronto	Toronto	1	0	1
	TOTAL TORONTO	**1**	**0**	**1**
South West	Grey-Bruce	0	0	0
	Elgin-St. Thomas	0	0	0
	Huron County	0	0	0
	Chatham-Kent	0	0	0
	Lambton	0	0	0
	Middlesex-London	0	0	0
	Oxford	0	0	0
	Perth District	0	0	0
	Windsor-Essex County	0	0	0
	TOTAL SOUTHWEST	**0**	**0**	**0**
Central West	Brant	0	0	0
	Haldimand-Norfolk	0	0	0
	Hamilton	7	0	7
	Niagara Region	0	0	0
	Halton Region	0	0	0
	Waterloo Region	1	0	1
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	2	0	2
	TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	**10**	**0**	**10**
	TOTAL ONTARIO	***11***	***0***	***11***

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports to PHD]

† Episode Date for a case corresponds to the earliest date on record for the case according to the iPHIS hierarchy (Symptom Date > Clinical Diagnosis Date > Specimen Collection Date > Lab Test Date > Reported Date)

Table 3: Cumulative* Laboratory confirmed cases of influenza by health unit & health region with an episode date† between September 1 – December 9, 2006

Region	Health Unit	Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza		
		Influenza A	Influenza B	TOTAL
North West	Northwestern	0	0	0
	Thunder Bay District	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH WEST	**0**	**0**	**0**
North East	Algoma	0	0	0
	North Bay Parry Sound District	0	0	0
	Porcupine	0	0	0
	Sudbury & District	0	0	0
	Timiskaming	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH EAST	**0**	**0**	**0**
Eastern	Eastern Ontario	0	0	0
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties	0	0	0
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	0	0	0
	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark	0	0	0
	Ottawa	1	0	1
	Renfrew	0	0	0
	TOTAL EASTERN	**1**	**0**	**1**
Central East	Durham Region	0	0	0
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District	1	0	1
	Peterborough County-City	0	0	0
	Simcoe Muskoka District	0	0	0
	York Region	2	0	2
	Peel Region	8	0	8
	TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	**11**	**0**	**11**
Toronto	Toronto	7	0	7
	TOTAL TORONTO	**7**	**0**	**7**
South West	Grey-Bruce	1	1	2
	Elgin-St. Thomas	0	0	0
	Huron County	0	0	0
	Chatham-Kent	0	0	0
	Lambton	0	0	0
	Middlesex-London	0	0	0
	Oxford	0	0	0
	Perth District	0	0	0
	Windsor-Essex County	0	0	0
	TOTAL SOUTHWEST	**1**	**1**	**2**
Central West	Brant	0	0	0
	Haldimand-Norfolk	0	0	0
	Hamilton	16	0	16
	Niagara Region	0	0	0
	Halton Region	8	0	8
	Waterloo Region	3	0	3
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	7	0	7
	TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	**34**	**0**	**34**
	TOTAL ONTARIO	***54***	***1***	***55***

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports have been extracted using CRN at PHD]

* Cumulative case counts include late reports and records that are otherwise reconciled. Therefore, cumulative counts may not equal new cases plus previous cumulative value.

† Episode Date for a case corresponds to the earliest date on record for the case according to the iPHIS hierarchy (Symptom Date > Clinical Diagnosis Date > Specimen Collection Date > Lab Test Date > Reported Date)

Influenza Subtype(s):
During week 49, 2302 isolates were received by the Public Health Agency of Canada, with a total of 91 testing positive for influenza A and 2 for influenza B. The majority of influenza A isolates (70) were from Alberta (76.9%), while there were 8 (8.8%) from Ontario, 3 (3.3%) from Quebec and 10 (11.0%) from British Columbia. While both influenza B isolates came from Ontario.*

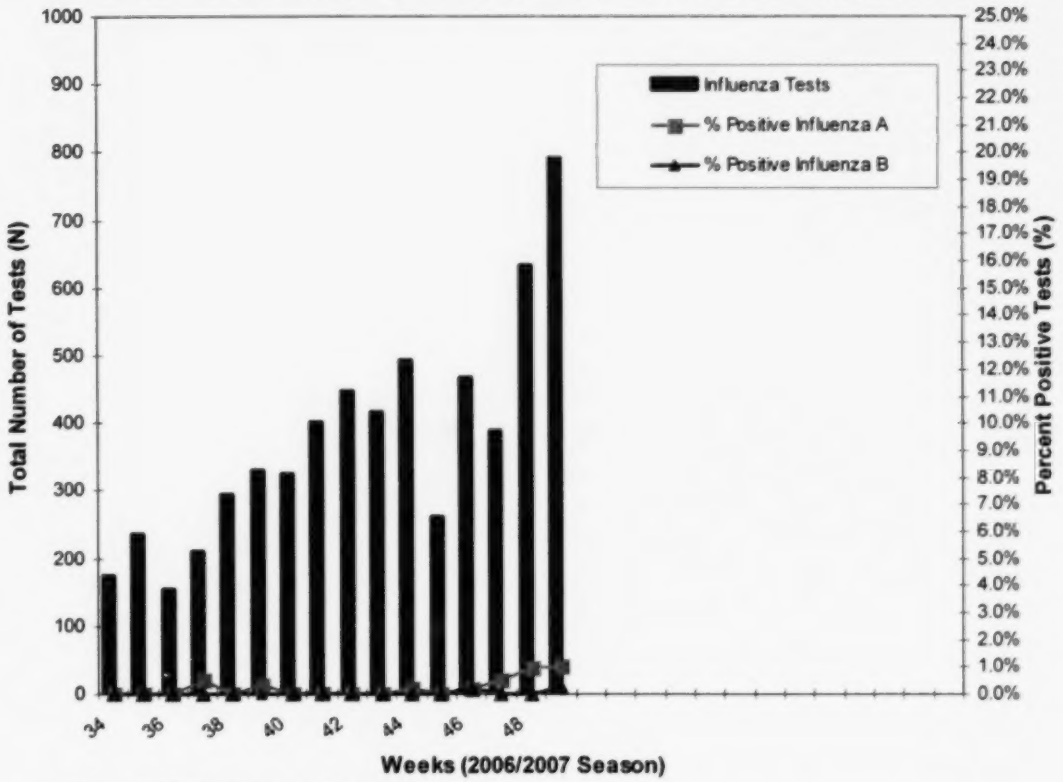
Antigenic Characterization:
The National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has characterized 20 influenza viruses for the 2006-2007 influenza season: 7 A/Wisconsin/67/2005(H3N2)-like viruses (from Ontario) and 13 A/New Caledonia/20/99(H1N1)-like viruses (from Alberta and British Columbia). Both strains are included in the composition of the 2006-2007 Canadian influenza vaccine. **

Antiviral Resistance:
Since the start of the season, the NML has tested 15 influenza A isolates (9 H1N1, 6 H3N2) for amantadine resistance of which 2 (13.3% - all H3N2) were resistant. None of the 8 influenza A isolates (7 H1N1, 1 H3N2) tested were found to be resistant to oseltamivir. **

Note: Based on the World Health Organization recommendations, Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended the **2006-2007** influenza vaccine contain an **A/New Caledonia-like**, an **A/Wisconsin-like** & a **B/Malaysia-like** virus strain.

* These data have been obtained from the Respiratory Virus Detection tables of Public Health Agency of Canada for week 49, 2006.
** These data have been obtained from the FluWatch report of the Public Health Agency of Canada for week 48, 2006.

Figure 1: Total number of influenza tests performed and percent of positive tests in Ontario reported to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), by report week*.



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
* Total numbers reported include late reports; therefore totals may not be equal to the sum of the weekly numbers.

Note: Cumulative numbers for season to date are available through FluWatch: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/

Table 4: Institutional respiratory outbreaks in Ontario: New Outbreaks from December 3 – December 9 (Week 49), 2006, and Total Outbreaks from September 1 – December 9, 2006

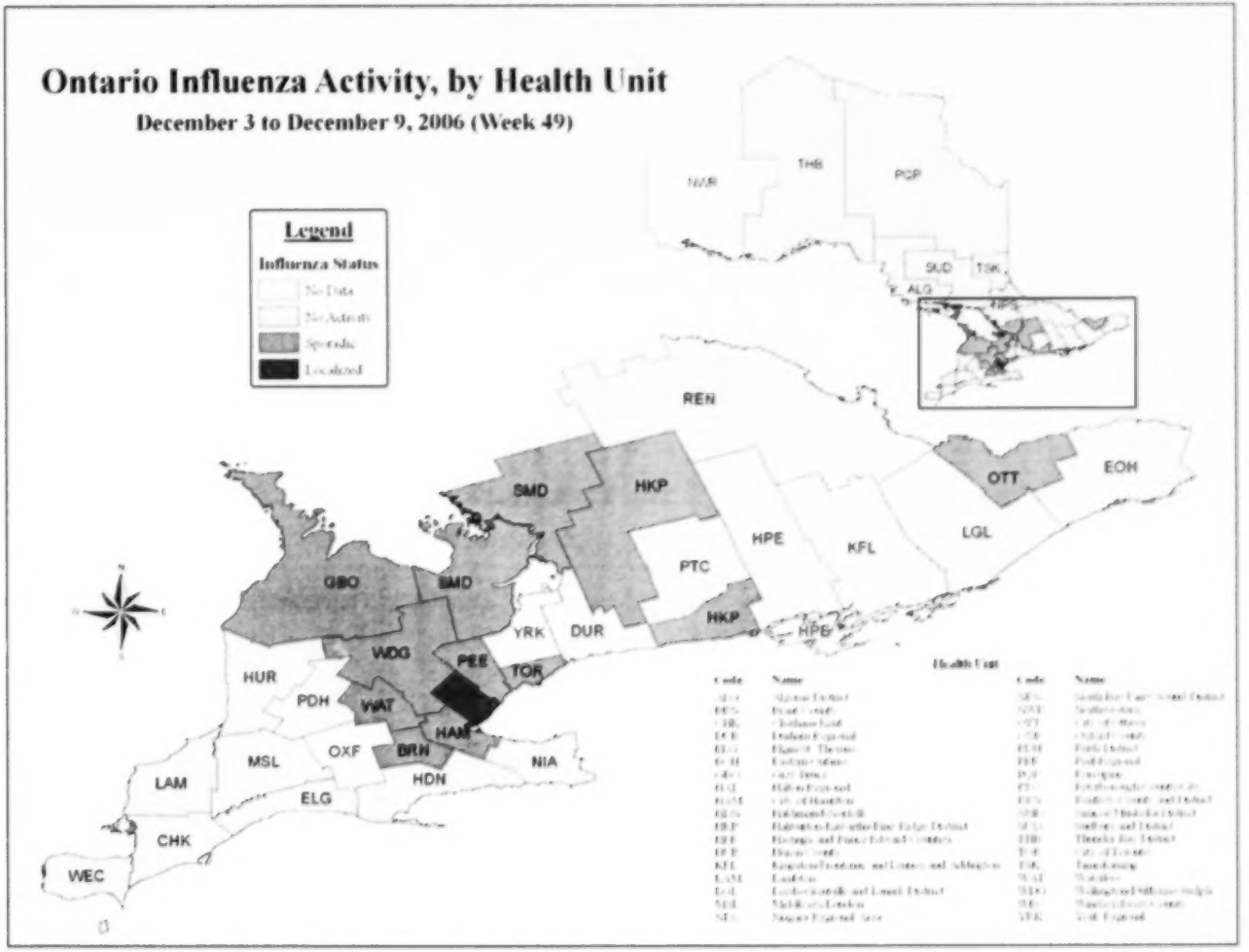
Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks		
New Outbreaks* (Dec. 3 - Dec. 9, 2006)	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Influenza A	0	0.0
Influenza B	0	0.0
Influenza A and B	0	0.0
Parainfluenza (All types)	0	0.0
Other organisms	2	28.6
No organism identified	5	71.4
TOTAL	***7***	***100***
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks of the Season to date (Sept. 1 – Dec. 9, 2006)**	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Influenza A	2	1.2
Influenza B	0	0.0
Influenza A and B	0	0.0
Parainfluenza (All types)	8	4.7
Other organisms	22	12.9
No organism identified	138	81.2
TOTAL	***170***	***100***
Types of Institutions (All Outbreaks) **	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Long-Term Care Homes	6	3.5
Hospitals	0	0.0
Retirement Homes	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0
Unknown	164	96.5
TOTAL	***170***	***100***
Outbreak Related Complications (All Outbreaks) **	**N**	**% (of total cases)**
Total Cases		
Residents	1943	68.3
Patients	182	6.4
Staff	721	25.3
Total Cases	**2846**	**100**
Deaths		**% (of cases per role)**
Residents	31	1.6
Patients	2	1.1
Staff	0	0.0
Pneumonia (Chest x-ray confirmed)		**% (of cases per role)**
Residents	67	3.4
Patients	2	1.1
Staff	3	0.4
Hospitalizations		**% (of cases per role)**
Residents	55	2.8
Patients	1	0.5
Staff	1	0.1

SOURCE: MOHLTC: iPHIS Outbreak Summary

* New outbreaks are those in which the date of onset of illness in the first case occurred and recorded through iPHIS in the current surveillance period; i.e. December 3 – December 9, 2006

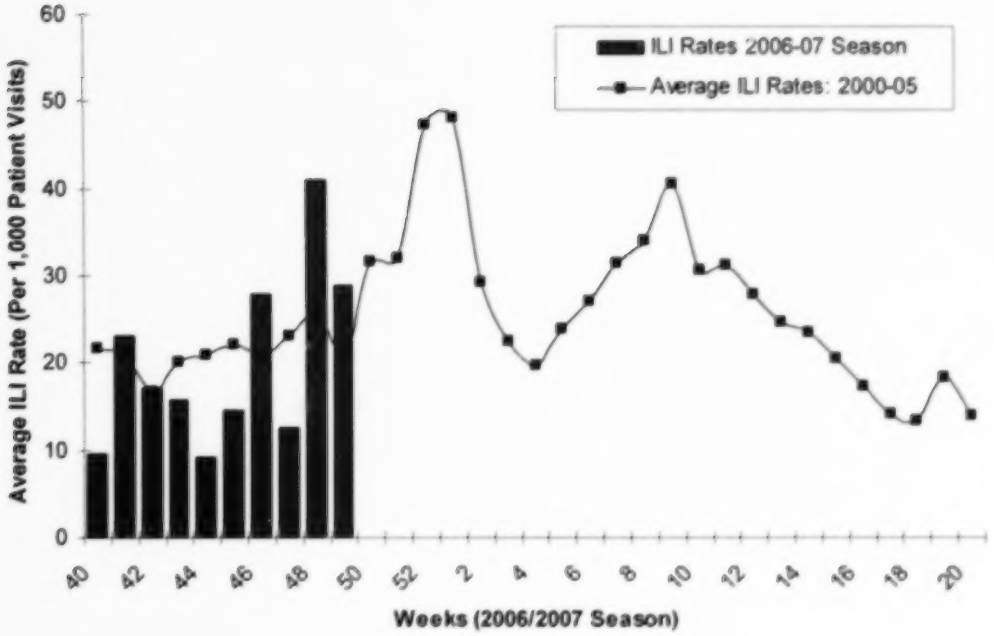
** Season to date includes all outbreaks in which the date of onset of illness in the first case occurred from September 1 – December 9, 2006

Figure 2: Influenza Activity* levels in Ontario by health unit & health region for week 49 (December 3 - December 9), 2006.



SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]
* Influenza activity levels are assigned by local public health units and reported to the MOHLTC by the Tuesday following the end of the surveillance week at 4 pm. Activity levels are assigned based on laboratory confirmations, ILI reports from various sources, and laboratory-confirmed institutional outbreaks. Please refer to detailed definitions for the 2006-2007 season included in the Appendix-1]

Figure 3: Average influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by sentinel physicians* in Ontario in 2006- 2007 season, by report week, Compared to Ontario average† (1999/2000 to 2004/05 seasons).



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
* Sentinel physician information is reported to Public Health Agency of Canada.
†No data available for mean rate in previous years for weeks 21 to 39 (1999-2000 through 2004-2005 seasons). During weeks 20-39, 2002-2003/2004-2005 seasons, ILI is reported once every two weeks, on even weeks only.

Table 6: Average Influenza-like illness consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by Sentinel Physicians* in Ontario, by age group and postal code for week 49 (Dec. 3 – Dec. 9), 2006.

Postal Code	0 – 4	5 – 19	20 – 64	65 +	Unknown
K0C1A0	0	0	0	0	0
K1J9M2	1	0	2	0	0
K2L3C8	0	0	1	0	0
K2P1V3	0	0	0	0	0
K0H2N0	0	0	0	0	0
K7H2W6	0	0	0	0	0
K7L1E9	0	0	0	0	0
K0L1C0	0	0	0	0	0
K0M1A0	0	0	0	0	0
L1B1H8	0	0	0	0	0
L4L4Y7	0	0	0	0	0
L4J7Y3	0	0	0	0	0
M5M1B2	0	0	0	0	0
M4X1W4	0	0	0	0	0
M6G4A1	0	1	0	0	0
M4E1V8	0	0	0	0	0
M8Y1W3	0	0	0	0	0
M2N6H7	0	0	1	0	0
M2J2Z1	0	0	0	0	0
M3H1T1	0	0	2	0	0
M9W6N5	0	0	0	0	0
M9W4L6	1	0	1	0	0
M8V2Z5	0	0	0	0	0
L5J2W4	0	0	1	0	0
L5G3H5	0	0	0	0	0
L4Y2N8	0	0	0	0	0
L6W2A4	2	1	1	0	0
L9W1G2	0	0	0	0	0
N1H4G2	0	0	1	0	0
L7R1M6	0	0	1	0	0
L9H1V1	0	0	1	1	0
L9H2G2	1	1	2	0	0
L0R1H0	0	0	1	0	0
L2E1Y3	0	0	0	0	0
L0R1B0	1	3	0	0	0
N3R7K8	0	0	0	0	0
N2G1P2	0	0	0	0	0
N8X2G3	2	0	6	0	0
N0M1T0	0	0	0	0	0
N6A5R9	0	0	2	0	0
N6C2R5	0	0	0	0	0
N0M1L0	0	0	0	0	0
N0G1L0	0	0	0	0	0
N0C1E0	0	0	0	0	0
P0A1C0	0	0	0	0	0
P0P1S0	0	0	0	0	0
P0M2L0	0	0	0	0	0
P7E1H5	0	0	0	0	0
P0W1E0	0	0	0	0	0
P9N3W7	0	0	0	0	0
P8N2Z6	0	0	0	0	0
ILI Sum	**8**	**6**	**23**	**1**	**0**
ILI Consultation Rate (per 1,000 patient visits)	**79.2**	**53.1**	**30.3**	**2.9**	**0**

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
* Sentinel physician information is reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada
Note: The small numbers of sentinel physicians reporting at the local level make the ILI rates unstable. Please interpret these data correspondingly.

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
   Previous issues of the *Ontario Influenza Bulletin* can be accessed at:
   http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_05/flubul_mn.html

2. Public Health Agency of Canada
   Issues of FluWatch can be accessed at:
   www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/

3. United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
   www.cdc.gov/flu/

INFORMATION ABOUT AVIAN INFLUENZA

For latest information on the status of avian influenza worldwide please use the following link:

Public Health Agency of Canada
http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/h5n1/index.html

APPENDIX - I

Definitions for influenza activity levels:

No Data: No activity report corresponding to the surveillance week was received at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Call Centre by the Tuesday (at 4 p.m.) following the end of the surveillance period.

No Activity: No laboratory confirmed* influenza cases(s) or outbreak detected during the past four weeks within the influenza surveillance region, however, sporadically occurring **ILI** may be reported†

Sporadic: Sporadically occurring **ILI and laboratory confirmed influenza* case(s) with NO outbreaks** detected within the influenza surveillance region†

Localized: sporadically occurring **ILI and laboratory confirmed influenza* case(s) together with outbreaks of ILI** in schools and/or worksites or laboratory confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring **in less than 50% of the influenza surveillance region(s)**†

Widespread: sporadically occurring **ILI and laboratory confirmed influenza* case(s) together with outbreaks of ILI** in schools and/or worksites or laboratory confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring **in greater than or equal to 50% of the influenza surveillance region(s)**†

* Confirmation of influenza within the surveillance region at any time within the prior week
† Sub-regions within the province or territory as defined by the provincial/territorial epidemiologist

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Definitions:

A) ILI in the general population:

Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following - sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia, or prostration which could be due to influenza virus. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or 65 and older, fever may not be prominent.

B) ILI/Influenza outbreaks:

Schools and work sites: greater than 10% absenteeism on any day, most likely due to ILI.

Residential institutions: two or more cases of ILI within a seven-day period, **including at least one laboratory-confirmed case**.

Influenza Surveillance Weeks 2006-2007 and date of submission of Appendix C

WEEKS	START	END	Appendix C Submission to MOHLTC
50	10-Dec-06	16-Dec-06	19-Dec-06
51	17-Dec-06	23-Dec-06	26-Dec-06
52	24-Dec-06	30-Dec-06	2-Jan-07
2007 begins			
1	31-Dec-06	6-Jan-07	9-Jan-07
2	7-Jan-07	13-Jan-07	16-Jan-07
3	14-Jan-07	20-Jan-07	23-Jan-07
4	21-Jan-07	27-Jan-07	30-Jan-07
5	28-Jan-07	3-Feb-07	6-Feb-07
6	4-Feb-07	10-Feb-07	13-Feb-07
7	11-Feb-07	17-Feb-07	20-Feb-07
8	18-Feb-07	24-Feb-07	27-Feb-07
9	25-Feb-07	3-Mar-07	6-Mar-07
10	4-Mar-07	10-Mar-07	13-Mar-07
11	11-Mar-07	17-Mar-07	20-Mar-07
12	18-Mar-07	24-Mar-07	27-Mar-07
13	25-Mar-07	31-Mar-07	3-Apr-07
14	1-Apr-07	7-Apr-07	10-Apr-07
15	8-Apr-07	14-Apr-07	17-Apr-07
16	15-Apr-07	21-Apr-07	24-Apr-07
17	22-Apr-07	28-Apr-07	1-May-07
18	29-Apr-07	5-May-07	8-May-07
19	6-May-07	12-May-07	15-May-07
20	13-May-07	19-May-07	22-May-07
21	20-May-07	26-May-07	29-Jun-07
22	27-May-07	2-Jun-07	5-Jun-07
23	3-Jun-07	9-Jun-07	12-Jun-07
24	10-Jun-07	16-Jun-07	19-Jun-07
25	17-Jun-07	23-Jun-07	26-Jun-07
26	24-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	3-Jul-07
27	1-Jul-07	7-Jul-07	10-Jul-07
28	8-Jul-07	14-Jul-07	17-Jul-07
29	15-Jul-07	21-Jul-07	24-Jul-07
30	22-Jul-07	28-Jul-07	31-Aug-07
31	29-Jul-07	4-Aug-07	7-Aug-07
32	5-Aug-07	11-Aug-07	14-Aug-07
33	12-Aug-07	18-Aug-07	21-Aug-07
34	19-Aug-07	25-Aug-07	28-Sep-07
35	26-Aug-07	1-Sep-07	4-Sep-07